

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 21-23, 25-27, 31 and 38-40 are amended. Claims 59 and 60 are added. Claims 1-40, 59 and 60 are in the application for consideration.

The specification is amended to correct a typographical error. Entry of the same is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 21-23, 25-27, 31 and 38-40 and the title are amended to insert preferred and more grammatically correct hyphenation. No change in scope occurs thereby. Entry of such amendments is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 59 and 60 are added and recite that the subject silicon dioxide-comprising layer is formed to be homogeneous. Such is inherently supported in Applicant's application as-filed. For example, Applicant's Figs. 6 and 7 depict homogeneous material layers 40. Further, Applicant's specification at paragraphs [0030] – [0034] clearly contemplate, inherently disclose, and support reference to the formation of a homogeneous layer. For example, paragraph [0031] refers to the complete fill of trenches, or alternately, being filled with "another material". Accordingly, Applicant's application as-filed supports the formation of homogeneous layers.

This amendment is also filed in an abundance of caution to positively recite U.S. Patent No. 5,770,469 to Uram et al., and other references. Applicant mistakenly listed this reference with the erroneous number 5,570,469 as an item AJ on the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on November 17, 2004. The Supplemental IDS enclosed herewith provides another Form PTO-1449 with the correct numbering

of the reference U.S. Patent No. 5,770,469 to Uram et al. It is respectfully that the Examiner review such reference and initial the accompanying PTO-1449 form. The application as presented herein is believed to be allowable over this reference, whether taken alone or in combination with any other reference now of record.

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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